Welcome

Even in February, there are places where the sun always shines: the Canary Islands; the pages of cycling magazines; and, if you’re a fan (I know you’re not) of Eighties Scandinavian synth-pop, ‘on TV’. But not outside my window or, I suspect, yours.

There’s a disjunction between the idealised cycling world and the one we inhabit, especially now, at the fog end of winter, on a northern European island in an unforgiving slate grey sea. It explains why so many road bikes that aren’t built for racing nevertheless lack the clearance and fittings for mudguards, equipment that’s about as ‘optional’ as the windows and windscreen wipers of a car.

Some roadies are so committed to the mudguardless dream that they’ll claim you don’t need them. In a British winter! It’s denialism, the Emperor’s claim you don’t need them. In a British island in an unforgiving slate grey sea.

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